



State of Utah

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DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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August 27, 1999

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Doug Jensen, Wayne Hedberg 

RE: Field Inspection, Goldstrike Mine, M/053/005, Washington County, Utah.

Date of Inspection: August 26, 1999

Time of Inspection: 9:15 a.m.

Conditions: Sunny, hot

Participants: Wayne Hedberg, Doug Jensen, DOGM

We arrived on the site @ 9:15 in the morning to evaluate the site one year after final reclamation and seeding. Also, while on site, we planned to rotate the effluent sprays, this had not been done since July 3rd, 1999.

Overall the seeding looks good considering that it has only had one season. According to reports the spring was dry, which could have impacted some of the initial growth. All newly planted areas seem to reflect all of the plants in the seed mix, though the density seems to vary from area to area. The thick spike wheat grasses seem to be the predominant grass throughout the site. Areas of cheat grass, russian thistle, & kochia appear on these newly planted areas as well; again, like the seeding, heavier in some areas than others.

All the areas recently reclaimed showed no evidence of any gullying or rilling. Even the steeper slopes of the heaps show good stability. The growth medium has not yet encrusted.

There was evidence of cattle grazing over the entire site. The BLM indicated there were cattle during their visit in July where they had observed 12 cows and calves and two bulls on the site at that time. The cattle are definitely impacting the possibility of reseeding as most of the seed-crop of plants are being consumed. A meeting with BLM needs to be scheduled to once again express the need to keep the livestock off the newly seeded areas to allow the areas to reseed and fill in.

Pictures were taken to go into the original pictorial account of the reclamation. While taking the pictures above Quail Dam, I discovered the cows on a hillside above Heap 2. I observed 10 to 11 cows and calves in the area; I couldn't really tell the exact number as they were moving through some heavy trees. Apparently the BLM has not had the owner remove them yet.

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We visited the application site to rotate the sprays. Several spray heads were plugged with what appear to be a fairly large water-bug. How they are surviving in a buried, closed system is somewhat of a mystery. We rotated the water to the North line. The can used to measure the flow could not be found so I estimated the flow by knowing the area covered by the sprays when I last measured the flow in April. The flow was last measured by Dan Slyter on July 3 at 7.5 gpm, I estimated the present flow at about 5 gpm. A flow meter needs to be purchased and placed at the site. Flow from the heaps is a critical issue with DWQ as to whether there is a need to continue to land apply these solutions. If the flow continues to diminish, the need for this type of application could possibly be discontinued.

jb
cc: Larry Gore, BLM, Dixie FO
M53-05.ins